



Press release

SAIPOL acquires Centre Grains in the port of Sète (34) with the acquisition of AXERREAL's shares and the buyout of minority shareholders

Grand-Couronne, 3 October 2022 - SAIPOL, a subsidiary of the AVRIL group, has completed the acquisition of 100% of Centre Grains, which was previously owned by AXERREAL, SAIPOL and minority shareholders.

Built in 2010, in order to develop the flow of cereals and oilseeds to the port of Sète, Centre Grains is now mainly dedicated to supporting Saipol Sète's activity of processing rapeseed, storing rapeseed intended for crushing, storing protein-rich oilseed cake for export, and storing sunflower hulls used by the biomass boiler that supplies the site's energy.

Each year, Centre Grains manages between 600,000 and 700,000 tonnes of seed flows on behalf of Saipol.

The acquisition of Centre Grains enables Saipol to consolidate its activity in the port of Sète, from the reception of oilseeds to the shipment of products and by-products: vegetable proteins and decarbonated energies. Saipol thus intends to continue the activity and maintain the jobs concerned.

For Christophe Beaunoir, Saipol's Managing Director: "The acquisition of Centre Grains is part of our overall strategy to reinvest in Sète. The perpetuation of these storage capacities on our site, in addition to the reliability of our industrial tools, in which we plan to invest from 2023, anchors our desire to make Saipol Sète a pillar of our development in favour of the decarbonisation of fossil fuels and the supply of proteins, particularly for export. "

Centre Grains in figures

- Installations in 2010 on 2 ha
- Storage capacity:
 - o 33,000 tonne seed silo (12 bins)
 - o 17,000 tonne flat storage shed (seeds, oilseed cake, sunflower hulls)
- 2 quays, one of which can accommodate 2 barges and a large capacity ship (panamax) simultaneously
- 2 loading and unloading gantries
- 7 employees

Saipol Sète in figures

- Installation in 1989
- Activities: rapeseed crushing, production of oilseed cake, pretreated oils, biodiesel, vegetable glycerine
- Processing of ~ 600 KT of rapeseed per year (inflow)
- Sale of ~300KT of oilseed cake, ~250KT of energy (biodiesel and pretreated oils) and by-products.
- 87 employees

About SAIPOL

Saipol, a subsidiary of the Avril Group, is the French leader in rapeseed and sunflower processing. Saipol is an active participant in the major transitions in agriculture, food and energy, and develops value-added solutions based on edible vegetable oils, protein-rich oilseed cakes and low-carbon renewable energy. The brands developed by Saipol include:

- OleoZE, a solution that offers a “GHG bonus” as remuneration for the cultivation of rapeseed and sunflowers from farming practices favouring soil conservation, and designed to offer premium low-carbon energy to the most ambitious players in the transport transition;
- OleoVE, pretreated vegetable oils as an alternative to palm oil, to foster the transition of refineries and biorefineries towards the production of low-carbon energy;
- Oleo100, a source of B100-type renewable energy made exclusively from rapeseed grown in France and intended for transport companies, local authorities and company vehicle fleets;
- Diester®, a biodiesel produced in France that can be used to make up 7% of the diesel fuel supplied to service stations. As an expert in sustainable production, Saipol markets biodiesels that reduce GHG emissions by 60% (standard) to more than 90% (low carbon).

To find out more about Saipol, visit the website saipol.com.

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